



Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 – 26 cancelled

27. (Previously presented) An apparatus for depositing fluid dots on a receiving surface in an array, comprising:

- a deposit device cooperatively related with a fluid source;
- a multiplicity of drop-carrying elements coupled to the deposit device;
- a transport mechanism for positioning the device at a precisely referenced position over the receiving surface; and
- a drive mechanism for moving the element, relatively, in deposition motion toward and away from the surface.

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 27 further including a multiplicity of fluid-retaining structures, each co-operatively arranged with the drop-carrying element and constructed to retain fluid including biological material by surface tension.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein each said fluid-retaining structure is constructed and shaped for at least partial immersion into a well including the biological material.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said fluid-retaining structure includes a circular-shaped member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said fluid-retaining structure includes a U-shaped member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

32. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein fluid-retaining structure includes a helical member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein fluid-retaining structure includes a closed shape member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

34. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein fluid-retaining structure includes a partially closed shape member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

35. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein fluid-retaining structure is made of a material providing appropriate surface tension for retaining said liquid including biological material and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

36. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for depositing fluid dots on a receiving surface in an array ~~The apparatus of claim 29, comprising:~~
a deposit device cooperatively related with a fluid source;
a multiplicity of drop-carrying elements coupled to the deposit device, and a multiplicity of fluid-retaining structures having at least partially enclosed shape, each said fluid-retaining structure being co-operatively arranged with an associated drop-carrying element and constructed to retain fluid including biological material by surface tension ~~wherein said fluid-retaining structure includes a circular shaped member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element~~ being is

constructed to move with respect to said structure member to receive said fluid therefrom by extending through said shape;

a transport mechanism for positioning said deposit device at a precisely referenced position over the receiving surface; and

a drive mechanism for moving each drop-carrying element, relatively, in deposition motion toward and away from the surface.

37. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said drop-carrying element includes a pin.

38. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said deposit device is constructed to urge said drop-carrying element to a predetermined position to achieve said precisely referenced position when said drop-carrying elements is in contact with the receiving surface.

39. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein said deposit device is constructed to achieve said precisely referenced position using a gravity element.

40. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein said deposit device is constructed to achieve said precisely referenced position using a spring.

41. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29 [[27]], wherein the receiving surface includes a rigid, smooth substrate.

42. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the rigid, smooth substrate is a glass slide.

43. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29 [[27]], wherein the receiving surface includes a porous membrane.

44. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29 ~~[[27]]~~, wherein the receiving surface includes a nitrocellulose.

45. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the receiving surface includes a cellulose acetate, polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) or nylon.

46. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the receiving surface includes a gel.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said fluid-retaining structure having said at least partially enclosed shape includes a circular-shaped member for said retention of liquid by surface tension.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said fluid-retaining structure having said at least partially enclosed shape includes a U-shaped member for said retention of liquid by surface tension.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the receiving surface includes a rigid, smooth substrate.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the receiving surface includes a rigid, smooth substrate.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the receiving surface includes a rigid, smooth substrate.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the receiving surface includes a rigid, smooth substrate.